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Unemployment Insurance Agency
FACT SHEET
State of Michigan • Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

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Extended Benefits in Michigan

During periods of high unemployment in a state, Extended Benefits (EB) may become available to workers who have exhausted their regular state unemployment insurance (UI) benefits as well as all other state and federal UI benefits.

Benefits payable through EB

The basic EB program provides UI benefits for half the number of weeks that a person received in regular UI benefits to a maximum of 13 weeks of EB. However, on April 12, 2009, legislation increased the maximum entitlement to **20 weeks** (80% of what the individual received in state benefits). The program's weekly benefit amount is the same as the individual received for regular state unemployment insurance.

What triggers EB?

Whether EB can be paid is determined by a calculation called the **insured unemployment rate** (IUR). The IUR is *not* the same as the **total unemployment rate** (TUR), which reports the total number of unemployed workers in the state's work force. The IUR is a 13-week moving average of UI weeks of benefits claimed divided by the number of people covered for UI. In order for EB to begin to be paid in a state, the state's IUR must be at least 5.0%, and the current IUR must be 20% higher than the average rate for the same period in both of the last two years.

Once the state begins paying EB, the program remains in effect for at least 13 weeks and potentially eligible unemployed workers are notified that they may be entitled to EB.

Michigan met the EB trigger level January 10, 2009

During the week of January 10, 2009, Michigan's IUR surpassed 5.0% and was 42% higher than same period for the prior two years. The week ending January 31, 2009, was the first week for which EB was payable.

State law amended April 13, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides for 100% federal funding of most EB claims. The state's UI law was amended on April 13, 2009, to include the total unemployment rate (TUR) triggering factor. If the state TUR is at least 6.5% and is 10% higher than the average TUR for the same period in either of the last two years, claimants are entitled to up to 13 week of EB. However, if the state

TUR exceeds 8.0% and is 10% higher than the average rate for the same period in either of the last two years, claimants are entitled to receive 80% of their regular state UI benefits. State UI law was amended again on March 29, 2011, to consider three years in determining whether the state meets the TUR trigger.

To be eligible for EB, workers must be unemployed or underemployed and must have exhausted their federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC).

Normally, EB costs are shared 50/50 between the federal government and the state. The state's share comes from its UI trust fund and is then charged on a prorated basis back to the employer(s). However, the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act calls for 100% of EB to be federally funded. Government employers and Indian Tribes and Tribal units, however, will still be charged 100 percent for EB.

Current eligibility period

The current EB period began January 25, 2009 and will continue as long as the state meets one of the EB trigger criteria methods.

Work Search is required

Individuals receiving EB must fulfill a stringent work search requirement in order to receive benefits and must list the employers contacted each week. As evidence of their work search, workers must supply the names of employers they have contacted over the prior two weeks, the name of the individual they contacted at each business, their method of contact, type of work they sought, and the results of their contact.